

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the fourth edition of *News and Views* - when this arrives with you we will be in the season of Advent and celebrating (perhaps?) a England or Wales triumph in the World Cup!

The main focus in this edition is the report which celebrates and reflects on the Poland Outreach based in Warsaw, which took place in August. In addition to

this we have a number of articles, including a biography of a new CMJ trustee and my regular Thinking Aloud! Column.

With every blessing to you this Advent and thank-you for your ongoing support for and interest in the work of CMJ.

Shalom

*Alex*

## NEW TRUSTEE

*Phil Grasham*



An experienced speaker and teacher, Phil Grasham, is the founder of Nathan's Tree Teaching and regularly delivers seminars, training days, and courses.

His desire is that congregations, small groups, and individuals gain a greater understanding of biblical, cultural, and missional faith so that they can live out their discipleship wherever they are. Phil has a Bachelor's degree in Applied Theology and a Master's degree in Kingdom Theology.

Phil has already spoken at CMJ UK in-person events and will be leading a Passover in the spring. If you would like Phil to speak at your church or study group, please get in touch! We look forward to welcoming Phil to the CMJ UK Conference in July 2023.

## MEMBERSHIP MEMORY VERSE

for 2023

**Listen to Me**, you who pursue justice, you who seek **ADONIA**. Look to **the rock** from which you were hewn, and the quarry from which you were dug.

ISAIAH 51:1 (MJFB)

## Autumn APPEAL UPDATE

We are so grateful to all those who have donated to our Autumn Appeal so far. There has been over 150 of you bless the work of CMJ. Some of you have shared your reasons for giving with us to encourage us further:

"With special memories of serving with CMJ in Jerusalem in early 1990s. May spiritual fruit come from this and all other donations that people make."

We have been blessed with just over £12,000. We are left with a gap of almost £6,000 as our Autumn Appeal budget was £18,000. The appeal ends on 31st December so if you have a desire to bless us with a donation to the Autumn Appeal and stand in the gap for us it would be a great encouragement to the staff, volunteers and trustees. You can donate via the website [www.cmj.org.uk/autumn-appeal](http://www.cmj.org.uk/autumn-appeal) or by phone or by cheque.

# LIFE

MISSION WARSAW, POLAND  
SUMMER 2022

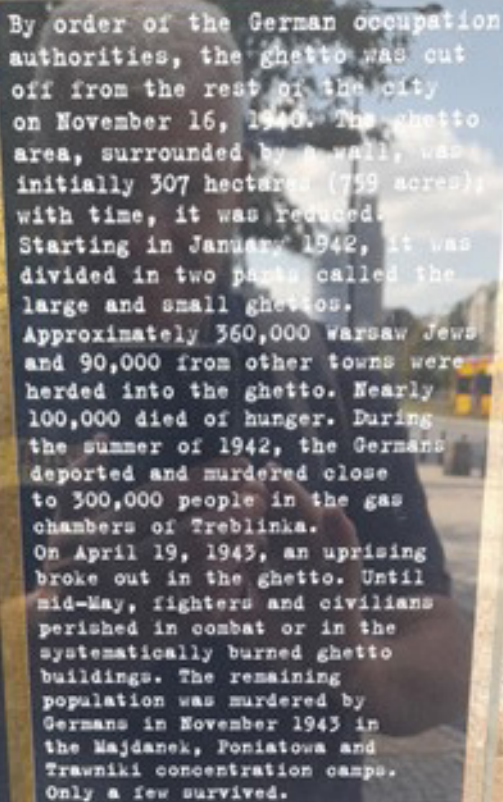
## from THE DEAD

Alex Jacob writes...

*It's great* when a plan finally gets put into practice. Our plans for a united outreach in Warsaw with participants from many nations and mission groups (see article in News and Views – Issue 4, 2022) was postponed twice due to covid and the conflict in Ukraine, but in August 2022 it went ahead with about 40 participants (plus support for a number of local Churches). We all worked well together in a range of outreach activities.

CMJUK played an active part in planning and delivering this outreach and 5 UK staff and 3 UK volunteers travelled to Warsaw, most of us flew but Paul and Janey had a long overland drive as they delivered many artefacts for the Bible Comes to Life exhibition which was an important part of the outreach.

For me (despite being sidelined with my first bout of Covid for 6 days) this outreach was very significant and I was privileged to share in it and to be part of a very hard working and creative team. It was also good to visit the site of the CMJ HQ in Warsaw – this site and the work was closed down as the Nazi regime invaded Poland in 1939. Maybe one day soon it will start again?



By order of the German occupation authorities, the ghetto WAS cut off from the rest of the city on November 16, 1940. The ghetto area, surrounded by a wall, was initially 307 hectares (759 acres); with time, it was reduced. Starting in January 1942, it was divided in two parts called the large and small ghettos. Approximately 360,000 Warsaw Jews and 90,000 from other towns were herded into the ghetto. Nearly 100,000 died of hunger. During the summer of 1942, the Germans deported and murdered close to 300,000 people in the gas chambers of Treblinka. On April 19, 1943, an uprising broke out in the ghetto. Until mid-May, fighters and civilians perished in combat or in the systematically burned ghetto buildings. The remaining population was murdered by Germans in November 1943 in the Majdanek, Poniatowa and Trawniki concentration camps. Only a few survived.

To the memory of those who suffered, fought and perished.  
The City of Warsaw, 2008.





## By Tania, CMJ UK Community Based Evangelist

**Inspiring and intensive** 3-day training kick started a packed two-week outreach schedule, with a cross missional and multi-generational team of Jewish and Gentile volunteers from many nations, including the UK, USA, Israel, Germany, France, Ukraine, Russia, Hungary and Poland.

Polish, Ukrainian and Russian speakers helped us overcome language barriers at special events, including lectures, a concert for Holocaust survivors and rescuers, a garden party, and the Bible Comes to Life exhibition.

We worked in small teams, giving out around 158,000 tracts in total at various sites around Warsaw. As well as having thousands of conversations and making several hundred Jewish and Gentile contacts, we had the great joy of leading 86 people to faith, including three Jewish decisions.

I made a number of Jewish contacts, who were followed up by local teams in Poland and Israel, and had conversations with (mainly!) friendly and open Israeli tourists. Engaging with Gentiles of various faith backgrounds, I was able to lead some in faith commitments, sharing the gospel (using the God Tools App) in Polish, Ukrainian, Russian, Czech, Arabic and Punjabi! Here is a snapshot:

- A young man was waiting at a train station on his way home to Belarus. I shared the gospel and he gave his life to the Lord. He was worried about being sent to prison when he returned home for protesting against the government. I assured him that whatever happened he now belonged inseparably to the Lord, if he continued to trust in him.
- An asylum seeker was sitting in a park. I shared a gospel tract in his language and he prayed to ask Jesus into his life. Apparently, a minister had been sharing the gospel with him at an asylum centre – one sows, another reaps!
- A young woman from Georgia was sitting on a wall smoking. I approached her, offered a tract and asked what she had heard about Jesus. I shared the gospel in her language and, with emotion and conviction, she gave her life to the Lord.

## By Paul & Janey Hames, CMJ UK

In August we took the Bible Comes To Life Exhibition to Warsaw where we joined colleagues from CMJ-UK, CMJ-Israel and Jews for Jesus for a joint outreach event in Warsaw. The first challenge was negotiating import and export rules as we travelled overland through the Netherlands and Germany to Poland. Our life-size camel Jamal raised eyebrows and interest with Dutch customs officials and gave us our first opportunity to talk about our faith and our reasons for travelling. Our venue was a beautiful old building near Warsaw's Old Town. We are grateful for the help that several **Polish Christians** offered with translation work, day to day interpreting and setting-up of the exhibition. We opened during the day for nine days and on three evenings when specialist lectures that had been arranged as part of the outreach programme.



The beauty of the exhibition was the length of time people spent with us. The street teams made an amazing number of contacts but their conversations often lasted only a minute or two; whereas people visiting the exhibition often stayed for more than 2 hours. That gave us opportunity to witness at length.

We recorded visitors from Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Germany, Norway, UK, US, Sudan, Somalia, Jordan and Israel; Protestants, Catholics including a nun, Jews, Muslims and secular people. One of our visitors was the Pastor of a large Baptist Church who invited us to talk about the exhibition at their Sunday service. There was a lot of interest in some CMJ's past workers - Michael Solomon Alexander, Elizabeth (McCaul) Finn, Samuel Schor and Jacob Jocz who all have family connections to Poland. The recurring theme of our time in Warsaw was that the Lord wants to redeem CMJ's unfinished Polish ministry. We value your prayers as we explore what this means for us.



# THINKING ALOUD! *by Alex Jacob*

**This time last year I was in the middle of my sabbatical and about to embark on an Advent retreat. To the surprise and amusement of many who know me well this retreat was a silent retreat!**

As I re-read my notes from this retreat (hosted by the Martha and Mary Centre in Devon) I came across these jottings from the book – *The Blue Mountains of China* by Rudy Wiebe (published by McClelland & Stewart, 1995). The book stated- “There can be a false and detached innocence of not being involved, in not taking sides or making choices and decisions. But this is not the way of the Kingdom. The Kingdom brings a

new way of living in which you repent by not feeling bad but by thinking and doing differently, you show wisdom by trusting others, you lead by serving and you respond to offenders by forgiving – in fact you develop a new attitude and new actions in everything - in nature, the state, politics, economics, family, work and leisure. This is the reality of being truly part of the “Jesus society”.

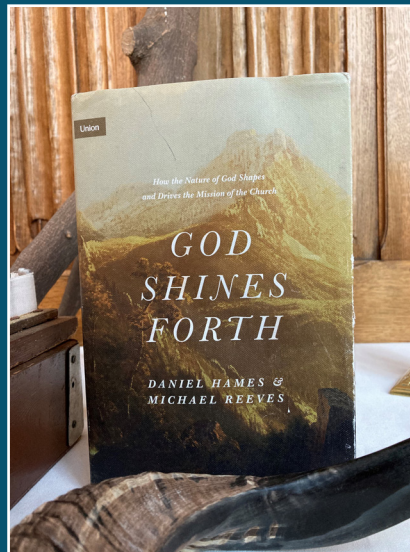
For me these words seem like a very good overview of Gospel living - Gospel living which for me is a bit like a silent retreat, something of a struggle but worth preserving with!

**John Compton**

**4/12/1924 - 25/9/2022**

We were saddened to hear of the passing of long term CMJ Volunteer John Compton recently.

John's obituary can be read on the CMJ UK website [www.cmj.org.uk/blog](http://www.cmj.org.uk/blog)



Daniel Hames (son of staff colleagues Janey and Paul Hames) and Michael Reeves have published a key book about mission and evangelism. The book is – *God Shines Forth* - How the nature of God shapes and drives the mission of the Church. It is published by Crossway (2022). A review of the book is in the Romans 15:8 Network blog.

[www.cmj.org.uk/romans-158/october-update-2022](http://www.cmj.org.uk/romans-158/october-update-2022)

## Gospel Cards - Thank you!

We received **£634** from Gospel cards in October 2022. Out of 26 organisations we had the top sales, as the only organisation that exceeded £1,000, generating 13% of their total sales.

**Thank you** to everyone who ordered through them this year. As you can see, it really does have a positive impact on our fundraising.

